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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **Local Guard unit receives new equipment**

MILBANK, S.D. – The 740<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company South Dakota Army National Guard, received 60 new M915A3 Freightliner semi-tractors on Feb. 9 at the Milbank and Aberdeen armories.

“The old trucks served us well over the past 24 years with many miles logged, but it was time for change and we’re grateful to receive the new equipment,” said Capt. Michael Webb, commander of the 740<sup>th</sup> TC.

The unit completed its final mission with its M915A1 semi-tractors that have been with the 740<sup>th</sup> since 1984 and supported the unit through two deployments to Iraq during Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The old trucks were taken to the Combined Maintenance Support Facility in Mitchell, S.D., for turn in.

Twenty-four members of the unit attended M915A3 maintenance training in order to begin immediately training the rest of the company. The members trained on the operation and maintenance of the many new features that the M915A1 models lacked. These features include a collision warning system, push-button transmission, air conditioning, air-ride seats and a Teflon fifth wheel plate.

“This type of truck (M915A3) is currently being used in Iraq,” said Capt. Webb.  
“Having the new trucks allows us to better prepare for our state and wartime mission.”

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753, or Staff Sgt. Chad Bransrud at (605) 626-3329.

**NOTE:** Since the Sept. 11 attacks on America, the South Dakota National Guard has mobilized more than 3,100 Soldiers and 730 Airmen in support of the Global War on Terrorism. More than 230 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota National Guard

remain on duty in Iraq, Afghanistan and other areas throughout Southwest Asia. More than 4,000 National Guardsmen are serving in a non-active duty status in South Dakota and continue to provide support for state and national emergencies and homeland defense.